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Miscellaneous Reading.

New Basis of Representation.

We noticed yesterday the bill passed by the House of Representatives of Congress, fixing a new basis of representation. As a matter of interest, and to place it on record, we subjoin the proceedings of the House on the occasion of its passage:

Mr. Stevens, from the Joint Committee on Reconstruction, to whom were referred the joint resolution and all of the proposed amendments to amend the Constitution of the United States so as to provide for a new basis of representation, reported the following joint resolution, as a substitute for the propositions referred to them:

Resolved, By the Senate and House of Representatives, etc., (two-thirds of both Houses concurring,) that the following article be proposed to the Legislatures of the several States, as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which, when ratified by three-fourths of said Legislatures, shall be valid as part of said Constitution, viz:

"Article.—Representatives shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each State, excluding Indians not taxed. *Provided*, That whenever the elective franchise shall be denied or abridged in any State on account of race or color, all persons therein of such race or color shall be excluded from the basis of representation." [This amendment is the same heretofore under consideration, except that the words—"and direct taxes"—are stricken out after the word Representatives.]

Mr. Stevens addressed the House in support of the amendment as modified, which he had just reported. He said that it differed only from the amendment heretofore under consideration by striking out the words "and direct taxes." He held differently from the position at the other end of the avenue, that the Constitution needed no amendment, but should remain as our fathers made it. But Congress had a duty to discharge, he contended, only equalled for well or woe to that Convention which issued the Declaration of Independence. The present and future generations awaited the legislation of this Congress on the basis of freedom with the greatest and deepest interest.

If the fathers had placed the Constitution on the basis of freedom in the Declaration of Independence, there would have been no necessity for the present amendment, and every one now would have been free and equal before the law. But at the time when it was proposed to reduce the principles of the declaration into the organic law of the land, a spirit of compromise appeared among the founders of the Government, which has been growing larger and stronger ever since. The fathers, to preserve and harmonize the conflicting views of the thirteen colonies, made a compromise in the Constitution. At the time that took place, there were but 90 bales of cotton exported. Now, there were 3,000,000. Then, there were but a few slaves, while now there were 4,000,000 freedmen—the slaves having increased so rapidly as to exceed even the white population of the Southern States. He reviewed the present time as the one to do justice to the principles of the Constitution, and he would say now, that he would rather not live than to entertain the sentiment of the gentleman from New York, (Mr. Raymond,) and those above him, that the Constitution did not need any amendment.

Mr. Raymond (interrupting) said that Mr. Stevens misunderstood him in saying that he opposed all amendments. He expressly conceded that some amendment similar to the pending one should be adopted.

Mr. Stevens (continuing) said he alluded as much to a gentleman at the other end of the avenue as to the gentleman from New York. He had as much respect for the President as any one, but he did not endorse him, for he had put forth a document in the shape of a command to this House, which was a usurpation and violation of the rules and

privileges of this House, and a hundred years ago would have cost a British king his head, had he sent such an edict in such a way to parliament. Without this amendment, he contended that the States always had the right to regulate the elective franchise, and he held that the pending amendment did not take away this right when it became incorporated in the Constitution. It said, however, to these States, that if they abused the elective franchise, the Constitution would hold a penalty over them.

All knew of the aspiration and ambition of the Southern States to rule this nation—for having failed to ruin the country they would now try to rule it; but the constitutional amendment would say to those States, just so far as you abuse the elective franchise by refusing a vote to the most loyal part of your population, just so in proportion shall you lose your power in the Government by losing your representation in the halls of Congress. The South would lose, by this amendment, thirty-five representatives. Their representation would be reduced from eighty to forty-five; and then we could add, he said, the whole nest of Copperheads, and freedom would still be triumphant in this hall. Mr. Stevens then proceeded to favor the education—civil and religious—of the freedmen for four or five years to come, and when they became qualified he would give them suffrage. But he did not want them to vote till they were qualified, and then he would give them representation. He would frankly say that he did not want their representation until that time.

In a few years he would not be here to see those on the other side of the house draw daggers on him when he made such a speech as he now was making, as was the case many years ago, but freedmen would occupy their places. He opposed Mr. Schenck's proposition to apportion representation among male voters. It was, he said, in one respect objectionable. It seemed to indicate a fear of rivalry with the women as much as the Democrats had feared the rivalry of the negro. While he could not get all he wanted, he would take what could be carried through the States and through two-thirds of both Houses. While he had respect for the recent opinion of the President, it was well known that this amendment did not go to him for his signature, and it was, therefore, all the more kind for the President to send his opinion to this House.

Mr. Smith, of Kentucky, called for the reading of the President's views, to which Mr. Stevens had alluded. [The Clerk then read the Associated Press telegram on Monday's papers, giving a conversation of a Senator with the President.]

Mr. Ingersoll, of Illinois, asked Mr. Stevens how he knew those to be the President's views?

Mr. Stevens said he was satisfied in his own mind with his authority that those were the views of the President.

Mr. Ingersoll asked for the authority. Mr. Stevens. O, I cannot reveal to the gentleman all of the secrets between the President and myself. [Great laughter.] But the President had nothing to do with the amendment. The House, it was true, had sent the other constitutional amendment to President Lincoln, who had signed it, and modestly returned it to the House, stating that he did not think that the Constitution required his signature.

But while he sent it, said Mr. Stevens, to Mr. Lincoln, we should send no constitutional amendment to Andrew Johnson. He then alluded to Mr. Raymond's speech, and declared that the Southern States were belligerent during the war beyond a doubt, the gentleman's opinion to the contrary. He admired Mr. Raymond, who was powerful in assault and cunning in defence, and commended his amiability of temper, but the softening of the brain was sometimes taken for tenderness of the heart. He quoted the conclusion of Raymond's speech, where he spoke of the rebel dead lying with our own, and being the nation's forevermore. Mr. Stevens said the gentleman had spoken of the rebel dead with our own dead, who gave up their lives at Gettysburg and the kindred fields of the war. Instead of leaving them to rot in their dishonored graves, unwept and unsung, they are to be resurrected to the front ranks of the nation, and monuments erected to their memory.

He deemed such talk on the part of the gentleman as simply blasphemy, and if the spirits of the dead could burst the ceremonies of the tomb and stalk from their graves, wrapped in their bloody shrouds, they would rebuke the gentleman for such blasphemy until his eye-balls were seared.

Mr. Raymond said that he spoke only of the courage of the rebel soldiers, and

did not claim them as with the loyal dead. Loud cries of "question," "question," came from all parts of the hall. The House then proceeded to vote.

Mr. Schenck offered his amendment basing apportionment on votes, as a substitute. It was not agreed to—yeas 38, nays 130.

The House then passed, by the requisite two-thirds vote, the constitutional amendment just as it came this morning from the Reconstruction Committee, and given above in full. The yeas were 120, and the nays 46.

A Strange Case.

A case of unusual interest, says the Chicago Times, was heard at the Police Court yesterday. After a number of ordinary criminal trials had been examined and disposed of, as the merits of the testimony against them demanded, the clerk called out the name of Sara Davis, when, after a pause of a few minutes, a neatly attired female about 20 years of age advanced from the prisoner's pen to the dock in front of the Judge. She bore on her arm a small basket, containing a few newspapers and several articles of wearing apparel. About her face was an indescribable expression of sorrow and anxiety, such as is the result of, and is traceable to, years of brooding grief, and restless, wearying thought. The sorrow that had fallen on her heart like a blighting frost, had lain so coldly on its pulsations that day by day her health failed, until now it seems but the work of a few short weeks to bring her wasted frame and unhappy life to their only hope of rest—the grave. It seemed impossible to believe that an expression of so much kindness and intelligence could belong to a thief, and yet she stood there to answer the charge of larceny.

William L. Maddock, residing at No. 144 Warren street, was called as a witness and swore that the accused frequently came to his house; and that he had told her to stay away. Missing a small framed photograph, containing the pictures of himself, his wife and children, and a few card photographs from an album, he suspected rightly who had taken them, and sending an officer to the room of the accused, he recovered the lost articles. He stated that the photographs cost him \$16, but from their appearance their value did not equal one-third that sum.

The testimony of the officer, on these isolated facts, supported that of the complainant. The case appeared to be a very clear one, when the Judge wisely asking the accused if she had anything to say, she at first hesitated, but upon being asked again, spoke a few minutes, and in the little she said, there seemed to be embodied so much of wrong, so much grief and such unmistakable honesty that the Judge reserved his decision.

She stated that about two years ago William L. Maddock, the complainant, had seduced her; that the fruit of their illicit passion was a child which Maddock had rudely taken away from her; that having grown exasperated at his unkindness and ill treatment, in a fit of desperation publicly cowdied him in Illinois. She stated that public sentiment had been so strongly against him in two or three places where he had lived since he had ruined her, that he was compelled to leave on account of this wrong and injury to her. She further stated that her happiness in life had been destroyed by him, her hopes in life crushed forever, and her health so worn down by grief and anxiety that she had no desire but to die. She remarked that in her wretchedness of mind and body she did things that were prompted by feelings which she could not control, and that would not have been done under other circumstances. The framed photograph is said to contain the likeness of her child, and whom she stated she loved tenderly and beyond measure. Bursting into tears in the feeble narration of this piteous tale, much that she said was not understood; and, doubtless, much that she might say in her own behalf, her grief would not permit her to tell. Her respectable appearance, and the evident honesty of her words, produced a profound sensation in the court room. A bystander was heard to remark: "The only thing I regret is that she is now too weak to repeat the cowdiding experiment."

At the Dead Letter Office in Washington a letter was recently received containing a check for eight thousand dollars in coin directed to a lady in New York, requesting her "to accept the enclosed as a return for the kindness shown my father and mother," dated at the Astor House, and signed "John," who was to start immediately for Europe. The Postmaster General directed thorough search for the lady, and at last found her.

Letter from Gov. Orr.

We extract the following from the New York News:

Governor Orr, of South Carolina, under date of January 19, 1866, addressed a long letter to the President, in relation to the sea island lands, from which the following extracts are made: In the lower part of the State scarcely a contract has been, or can be, made. The delay in carrying out your instructions of last October positively, which has continued from General Howard's visit to Captain Ketchum's return, within the past few days, renders the freedmen, as a body, incredulous of any restoration. They have in many places quietly but firmly refused to accept any terms; but, I regret to say, that within the last few days they have in some instances resorted to violence, burning down dwellings, destroying bridges, entrenching themselves in their quarters and refusing either to contract or give way to those who will. And in these cases, it is proper to say, that the contracts offered them have been approved by the United States authorities as liberal and just. This is not unnatural, for as long as the freedman has reason to believe that the Government will give him a homestead of forty acres, he will not voluntarily work for wages. It cannot, I think, be denied that the action of the Freedman's Bureau in this State has largely contributed to this unfortunate result. Without entering into the minute detail of its administration, I am constrained to say that there is, to my mind, sufficient evidence of an unwillingness to co-operate cordially with the policy of the Government. Certificates of titles have been in some cases granted to persons filling none of the conditions even of Gen. Sherman's order, and have been given to chance visitors to the islands for lands, not only for themselves, but for their friends who have never been away from their homes in the interior. Great delay has been interposed in the execution of the forms necessary to restoration, and the bureau has, indeed, gone far to defeat the very object of your orders, for it has decided that where a freedman refuses to contract on any terms, however just, that in such case there can be no mutually satisfactory arrangement, and his refusal acts as a bar to restoration.

In addition to this, the whole of the Parish of St. Helena, and a great portion of St. Luke's, comprising the body of the estates which, in intrinsic value, in their former amount of product, cannot be surpassed by an equal extent of country in any State of the Union, have been appropriated by the Government under the provisions of the direct Tax Act. These lands are occupied by Freedmen; some under the pretence of allotment; some under the pretence of purchase; some under pretence of Gen. Sherman's order, and most under no pretence at all. The Tax Commissioners charged with the execution of these acts have manifested their sympathies as the agents of the Freedman's Bureau, and this whole section of country is held out as not only a home of the refugees, but is a land of promise for every indolent freedman in the State.

Finally, a bill has been reported to Congress, and is now under discussion, by which the titles granted under Gen. Sherman's field orders are to be confirmed for three years. I do not think, therefore, that I am risking either an extreme or doubtful opinion when I say that the chief cause of our difficulty, in finding a solution of this question of labor, proceeds from the action of the Government encouraging the belief that the sea coast region of S. Carolina is to be confiscated for the purpose of establishing a system of independent colonization for the freedmen. If this is not so, then the interests of this State require that this impression, so generally prevailing, should be authoritatively denied, and that those who, for purposes of personal interest or political agitation, are endeavoring to prolong and to exaggerate our present embarrassment, should be deprived of so effective a means of mischief. Can any reason be found why the planter on the coast, who was driven from his home in 1861 or 1862, should now have his lands appropriated for distribution, while his fellow-citizens of the middle or upper districts, whose estates have been undisturbed, but has participated as fully and heartily in the war, shall be confirmed in possession of his?

The policy of which, as a representative of the State, I complain, is the partial and unjust confiscation of the property of a small portion of citizens, including a large number of unoffending widows and orphans, to be given, in the same spirit of injustice in which it is taken, to persons having no claim for special consideration at your hands. The mere introduction of the bill for confirming these titles has had an immediate and injurious effect. It has checked the energy which was be-

ginning to manifest itself; suspended the contracts which were in process; arrested the spirit with which the planters were preparing to go to work hopefully and heartily, and stopped at once the investment of all Northern capital which was beginning to find profitable employment in Southern fields. Now, if the occupation of these lands in the hands of which General Sherman's order placed them is confirmed also, and every day will make it worse, one or two things will follow—either this section of the State will nearly be abandoned to its fate, and its miserable population dwindling away from disease, want and crime, will, after a few years of mischievous vagabondage, disappear from the land, or by fraud or force will be expelled. But if these lands are restored, their capitalists, the certain remuneration of successful cultivation, the fact that the freedmen are accustomed to the soil, mode of culture, and habits of employer, will secure to such freedmen successful contracts and the most liberal wages. The planters who can return, and the foreign capital which will occupy the places of those who cannot, will by energy soon recover these places, and the country will reap the benefits.

This letter of Governor Orr was brought to Washington by a special messenger, who was too late, however, to influence the action of the Senate on the Freedman's Bureau bill relating to the islands.

Adventures of a Bigamist in Minnesota.

Last Fall a young lark, traveling under the alias of C. W. Stimpson, came to this place. He hailed from Waterville, Me., and represented himself as worth \$40,000. On the road he "passed" himself off as an agent of the Grand Trunk Railway, exhibiting pretended letters from the superintendent, and in this way obtained a pass over the Stage Company's line from Col. Merriam. By means of his \$40,000 propertions he also waded into the good graces of some of your St. Cloud people. After reaching this place he laid siege to the affections of a Mrs. Hubbard, an amiable and respected widow lady of Sauk Centre, worth some property. It seems that they had both formerly lived in Waterville, Me., Stimpson being at that time a common laborer working for her relatives, though then under his real name, he had written to her during the Summer declaring himself an old lover; stating that a trip to California had placed at his command a large fortune, and closing with a request for permission to visit her. She thinking it was a brother who had taken this means to play a pleasant joke, wrote for him to come. So Mr. \$40,000 Stimpson appeared in our little town, and literally "took" the place. The quantity of air(s) in the neighborhood was wonderfully increased. He brought with him letters of recommendation, said now to have been forged, from her relatives, and exhibited pretended certificates of deposit in the St. Paul banks for heavy sums of money. He also

"Stole the liver of heaven
To serve the devil in;"

was extremely sanctimonious, indulged in long prayers, and was a strong advocate of family worship. As the result of his labors, he and Mrs. H. were married in St. Cloud last October. For a time all went on delightfully, but after a while letters were received in Sauk Centre, showing that Stimpson had already been twice married in the east; that he had twice been in State Prison, thus divorcing his former wives. He also attempted to compel his third wife (Mrs. H.) to give him some valuable papers. She refused, when he stole them. Now for the denouement.

He was preparing to leave on this morning's stage, when last evening he was arrested in Safford's Hotel, and, upon examination, the missing papers, as well as some others, were found in the bottom of his boots and sewed up in the lining of his coat. As soon as he got his boots on again, he made for the door and started through the snow bank, followed by some twenty citizens. Such a tumbling, wallowing, puffing and blowing you probably never saw. After an exciting chase of about two hundred rods the pursuers closed on the gay groom, and he was brought back to the hotel, where his hands and feet were firmly tied. To-day he is to undergo another examination.

Stimpson has secured, it is understood, most of Mrs. Hubbard's means, and for her considerable genuine sympathy is felt. His \$40,000 has dwindled down to a shadow; or, if any are left, they are like himself, in bonds.—*Cor. of the St. Cloud (Minn.) Democrat, Jan. 15.*

"Madame," said a gentleman to his wife, "let me tell you facts are stubborn things." Dear me, you don't say so," quoth the lady, "what a fact you must be!"

Another Candidate for Southern Honors.

The Richmond correspondent of the New York Times, a Mr. Brooks, was pumelled rather severely by Mr. Pollard, of the Examiner, a few days since. We look for Mr. Ben C. Truman, a correspondent of the same paper, now in Tennessee, to be honored in like manner. In a letter from Nashville he writes:

WHEREABOUTS OF PROMINENT EX-CONFEDERATE GENERALS OF TENNESSEE.

The ex-Confederates of Tennessee, like the ex-Confederates of other States which I have visited, have donned their citizens' clothes, and are now engaged in various peaceful pursuits. Lieut. Col. A. P. Stewart, with whom I had an interesting interview a few days ago, after a few months of ruralizing, has gone into the commission business in New Orleans. Stewart was a fine officer, and commanded the Confederate right wing at the battle of Nashville. Major General John C. Brown, who was wounded at the battle of Franklin, is practicing law in Nashville. He is a brother of ex-Governor Neil S. Brown. General Gordon who was captured at Franklin, has gone to Texas.—He has resided in Texas before the war, but upon the breaking out of the rebellion he came to Tennessee and raised a company. Major General Quarles, who was badly wounded in Franklin, is in New York with his brother, who was formerly a member of Congress from the Clarksville District. Quarles had lately married a rich Mobile girl. I called on him about a year ago, and he spoke very kindly of the Federal officers, and promised to make Dr. Cliff, a prominent Union man of Franklin, Minister to England, when he (Quarles) should have become President of the Southern Confederacy. Quarles is a lawyer by profession, and a very clever gentleman. He told me, just one year ago, that things looked equally, but he added that if he recovered he should go it again. Gen. Gideon J. Pillow, who was unsuccessful at war, has gone to planting. He has got his Arkansas plantation in running order, and believes that free labor will be successful. He was in Memphis a few days ago, enroute for his home in Middle Tennessee. Gens. Sam Anderson, Joel A. Battle and Bushrod Johnson are all in Nashville practicing law. The latter was a fine officer. Anderson was formerly the postmaster at Nashville, and was better at that than at fighting. The only big thing that Anderson ever done was to demand the surrender of Nashville in the fall of 1862—that's all he did. When Negley told him he could not have the city if he would take it, he took—himself off. Battle was once captured at Shiloh. He put on considerable airs at the time, but nobody was hurt. Gen. Mark Wright is taking it very easy in the practice of law and in testing whisky—he may be said to be lawlessly engaged. Gen. Frank Cheatham is going it as before the war—on his shape. I do not suppose Frank cares much about music, sculpture, or painting—but what he don't know about the little joker and copping on the jaw isn't worth knowing. He can "cheatam" at cards all the time! Gen. Geo. Maury is practicing law at Nashville. Maury had three brothers in the war, and two half-brothers; none were injured. Maury was not worshipped by his troops. He was represented as bleak and gouty.—Gens. Smith and Bate are also in Nashville practicing law. Bate was a little on the Sir Lucius O'Trigger style—he had not rather fight than eat. He did a big thing about a year ago—got cleaned out by Rousseau. He wouldn't do to "Bate on." At the commencement of the war he and Niel S. Brown were going to clean out the Yankee gunboats with pikes.—Just about as ridiculous as the Dutchman who was in favor of getting up a regiment of lager beer fellows, armed with scythes, to mow down the rebel armies. Just imagine a shower of grape and canister flying into these worthies—great gracious! how the pikes and scythes would fly. Gen. Vaughan, who was cleaned out by Gen. Pillow in East Tennessee in the fall of 1864, is at his home in that section of the country. Dibrell has also settled down. Lieut. Gen. Napoleon Bedford Forrest is in Memphis. He is in the grocery and commission business on the levee with Tote, Gill & Able. I have met no man who talks better than Forrest. No man is more in favor of a lasting peace. He is not an educated man, but he is most gifted by Nature.—He was the most successful cavalry general of the war, and sacrificed a large amount of property during the rebellion. I cannot believe that Forrest is the bad man that many of us have taken him to be. In relation to what is known as the Fort Pillow massacre, I have met several Federal officers who say that the whole thing was exaggerated. The fact is, our flag was not pulled down, and Forrest's men banged away and really did kill some of our soldiers after they had surrendered. BEN C. TRUMAN.